

1-12. CANCELED

13. (NEW) A fork lift truck (10) comprising a truck body (12), a lift mechanism (14) connected to the truck body (12) by means of a vertically extending pivot (52) and means (24) for turning the lift mechanism (14) relative to the truck body (12) about said pivot (52) to steer the truck (10), the truck body (12) having a pair of rear ground engaging wheels (16) mounted on transverse axes, the lifting mechanism (14) having a single ground engaging front wheel (40) mounted centrally on a transverse axis, characterised in that the front wheel (40) has independent drive means (44, 46).

14. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the lifting mechanism (14) may be pivoted to the truck body (12) at a steering angle of substantially 90° or more.

15. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the front wheel (40) is positioned forwardly of the pivot connection (52) between the truck body (12) and the lifting mechanism (14).

16. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the front wheel (40) is positioned as far forward as possible towards the load bearing part (36) of the lifting mechanism (14).

17. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein the independent drive means (60,62;72,74) are provided to drive each of the rear wheels (16).

18. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 17, wherein the drive means (60,62;72,74) for the rear wheels (16) are connected to a power source (64;76), so that the rear wheels (16) may be driven automatically at different speeds.

19. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 17, wherein the drive means (60,62;72,74) for the rear wheels (16) are connected to a power source (64;76) in a manner which will permit power to be diverted automatically from the rear inside wheel (16) to one or more of the other wheels (16,40), in accordance with the steering angle.

20. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 13, wherein each wheel (16,40) is driven independently by an hydraulic or an electric motors (44,60,62;70,72,74).

21. (NEW) The fork lift truck (10) according to claim 20, wherein the motor (44) is connected to the wheel (40) by a gearbox (46).

22. (NEW) The fork lift truck according to claim 20, wherein the motor (44) and/or gearbox (46) is built partially into a hub of the wheel (40).

23. (NEW) The fork lift truck according to claim 20, wherein the power for the motors (44,60,62;70,72,74) is provided by an engine (80) driven generator or hydraulic pump (76,78), or by a battery pack (64).

24. (NEW) The fork lift truck according to claim 23, wherein the engine (80) is an internal combustion engine powered by fuel gas.